

# A Clipper visit: Kellie Bresnehan

BY SARAH VICIDOMINI,  
CLIPPER CONTRIBUTOR

**R**ecently elected Duxbury School Committee member Kellie Bresnehan and her family have lived in Duxbury for almost 13 years. A former history teacher, Mrs. Bresnehan enjoys trading novels with her Tinkertown Landing neighbors and is grateful for the guidance and support she's received from them over the years. We recently caught up with this busy mother of three.

**When did you decide to run for school committee?**

I decided this February. Being involved in the Duxbury Schools since my oldest entered Kindergarten in 2004, I have been asked numerous times over the years if School Committee is something I'd be interested in, and because of the time involved, I wanted to make sure I would be able to commit myself to the position. Since my youngest will be in full-time Kindergarten in the fall, I decided it is perfect timing for me.



Kellie Bresnehan

**Was it nerve-wracking running for the position?**

Because there were two open seats for School Committee and two of us running, it was not a nerve-wracking experience. Although I didn't have to actively campaign, I took Nancy Oates' advice to visit the Senior Center to collect signatures, affording me the opportunity to meet some wonderful people. I loved mingling with the seniors, and watching impressive knitting projects and card games being played. It was reminiscent of my childhood, growing up with a large extended family that celebrated holidays together where the adults played cards and talked for hours. I worry that our children won't

studies have shown that intellect alone doesn't always result in success, but that raising a resilient child does. I think we do a good job of offering a variety of high school electives and extra curricular activities.

**What do you think our town could do to improve our schools?**

I think Duxbury schools are always improving. If I could wave a magic wand, I'd love to see a reduction of class sizes down to no more than 18 at all levels. Luckily, the new Middle/High School will offer more collaboration and project based learning. Kids love hands on experiences and utilizing technology in the classroom. Adding STEM to the Middle School is another great addition, giving our kids more integrated curriculum.

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**What influenced your decision to run?**

Many factors. First and foremost, I am a former public school teacher, and education is my passion. I have been involved in the schools for many years in various volunteer positions, and I feel School Committee is the next step. I hold Dr. Tantillo in the highest regard and am excited to have the opportunity to work with him. I am very excited about the new school building, not only for the structure itself, but also for the ways it will enhance student learning. I aspire to the "whole child" approach, and would like to see our schools embrace not only educational aspects of children, but also their social/emotional development. After all, we are laying the groundwork for the next generation, which, if you really think about it, is an awesome task.

**Are your children in the Duxbury school system?**

I have three children, ages 13 (almost 14!), 10 and 5. Liam is an 8th grader at Duxbury Middle School, Molly is a 4th grader at Alden, and Maeve is enrolled in Pre-K at Sacred Heart in Kingston.

**How do your children feel about you being on the committee?**

I asked my children how they would feel about me joining the School Committee, and all three were excited! I think they feel proud of their mom. My hope is to always set a good example for them and to model responsible be-

**What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the committee?**

As a member of the School Committee, I hope to bring an open mind and a balanced approach. I spend a lot of time talking with parents across the grades, and I hope to be an honest representation of our community. Folks choose Duxbury for its schools and values, and nothing is more important to parents than their children's education. We need to be sensitive to myriad individual issues while balancing them with what works for the entire system. I've learned I could never make everyone happy, but I will certainly do my best to be fair and honest.

**How do you view Duxbury's public school system compared to others in surrounding towns on the South Shore?**

I think Duxbury schools perform well compared to surrounding towns. Because we are such a unique community, I don't take too much stock in rampant comparisons. We have a community of highly educated parents who offer their children a host of learning and extra curricular activities, so we are faring well as a town. Duxbury High School